

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1997
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Linda Steinman, Chair
Kathy Campbell
Steve Svoboda
Larry Hudkins

Commissioners Absent: Darlene Tussing

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Deb Rogers-Early, Records Manager
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM:

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 21, 1997 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING

MOTION: Campbell moved and Svoboda seconded approval. On call Campbell, Svoboda and Steinman voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, distributed copies of the County Corrections Report (Exhibit A).

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

a. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported a 1.1% decrease in the total population, noting, however, that the jail had recorded an increase of 4% in population.

Hudkins arrived.

b. Corrections Statistical Report

Thurber reported a record increase of 6% in total bookings for the quarter, for an average of 50 per month. He noted that this increase could result in longer lengths of stay for inmates.

Thurber briefly reviewed the Monthly Status Report figures, noting that the low population figure for the month of June should reflect a population of 204, rather than 104.

3 SPECIAL REPORT

a. Report by Deb Rogers-Early, Records Manager

Deb Rogers-Early, Records Manager, briefly reported on the development of Inmate Management Software (Exhibit B) with Information Services. She stated that current information will convert to the new system, but additional hardware upgrades will be necessary.

Steinman asked whether the Attention Center for Youth was also involved in the development of the software package.

Rogers-Early stated that the Attention Center is still in the analysis phase of software development with Information Services. She stated, however, that the conversion programming included juvenile information.

Thurber reported that the Attention Center is currently utilizing the Correction Department's existing booking software program.

4 EVENTS

a. Offender Transport

Thurber reported that the Corrections Department has transported 2,225 offenders to various Courts, and an additional 151 offenders to other locations, including State facilities, medical agencies and the Crisis Center.

b. Jail/Lincoln Corrections Facility Annual Inspections

Thurber reported that both Correctional facilities were found to be in 100% compliance with minimum standards in an annual inspection conducted by State Jail Standards.

c. Good News Prison Ministries

Thurber reported that the Inmate Benefits Fund had contributed \$3,000 toward placement of a full-time chaplain in the jail.

d. State Fair

Thurber reported the 2,652 youth were fingerprinted by Corrections Department volunteers at the State Fair.

e. Food Services Activities

Thurber reported the Michael Kroll is the new on-site AraMark food service manager at the jail.

5 OTHER ITEMS

a. Outside Contracts

Thurber reported that the housing rate for U.S. Marshall's Service offenders increased to \$64.96 per day, effective August 1, 1997.

Thurber also reported that the U.S. Marshall's Service had requested the Corrections Department to conduct tuberculosis testing of their offenders housed at the jail.

In response to a question from Steinman, Thurber stated that the U.S. Marshall's Service would be responsible for treatment costs for any offenders testing positive for tuberculosis.

Thurber reported that the housing rate for the City increased to \$55.63 per day, due to the new interlocal agreement between the City and County which took effect July 1, 1997. He noted that the current average housing rate for the City is 1,600 days per month.

Thurber reported the selection of Pharmaceutical Corporation of America (PCA) as the new vendor for pharmaceutical services.

b. Lincoln Corrections Facility Construction Program Activities

Thurber reported that inmates in the Construction Program had moved equipment for agencies including the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney, Trabert Hall, Star City Parade and Juvenile Probation. In addition they moved offices for the Senior Citizen Center, Aging, Citizen Information Center and Purchasing Department and performed painting and repairs at the Senior Citizen Center and electrical wiring at the K Street facility.

c. Recruitment Activities

Thurber reported that since the continuous recruitment procedure was initiated in May of 1997, 210 applications had been received. He stated that seven certificates of eligible Correctional Officers were received this quarter. Thurber also noted that many of the openings were due to Correctional Officers accepting other law enforcement positions.

Hudkins asked whether the Personnel Department was allowing competitive salaries necessary to retain personnel.

Thurber stated that the Correctional Officers' salaries and benefits were competitive, but that several staff members, who had accepted additional job responsibilities, were not receiving salaries in line with their duties.

d. Litigation Pending

Thurber briefly reported on pending litigation cases.

e. Legislative Activities

Thurber suggested that the Board monitor LB 695, which proposes reimbursement to the counties by the State at a rate of \$40 per day for all inmates held more than 30 days prior to conviction and for inmates sentenced to the County jail. He noted that this rate would not cover the County's current costs, which he estimated at \$60-\$65 per day.

6 NEW BUSINESS

a. Possible Video Arraignment

Thurber reported that the District Court Judges had proposed a video arraignment program between the jail and the District Courtrooms temporarily located in the Old Federal Building. Thurber noted that Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, had expressed some concern regarding bonding arraignments.

The Board expressed support of the program, however, Steinman noted that the Supreme Court will need to rule on its validity.

Thurber stated that both telephone line and fiber optic technologies are available, with fiber optics being more costly but providing the most distinct images.

7 ADJOURNMENT

Hudkins adjourned the Board of Corrections meeting.

Kandra Hahn
Lancaster County Clerk